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THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I would like the hon. Member to put a separate question."

*Quality and quantity of rice despatched from Vijayavada to Cannanore.*

* 1026 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether he has received the copy of a letter, dated 24th March 1953, from the President of the Cannanore Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited, No. CL 141/53, addressed to the Collector of Malabar, Kozhikode, about the shortage in quantity and bad quality of rice despatched from Vijayavada to Cannanore for distribution there; and if so, what action is proposed to be taken to set right the defects immediately?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes. The matter is under investigation by the Government."

*Quality and quantity of rice despatched from Vijayavada to Cannanore.*

* 1027 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any letter or memoranda, dated 23rd and 24th March 1953, from Cannanore Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited, Malabar, complaining against the quality and the heavy shortage of rice despatched from Vijayavada, and if so, what action has been taken; and

(*b*) whether similar complaints have been received from other societies or any other quarter?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes. The matter is under investigation by the Government.

" (*b*) Yes."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware that the quantity of deficit is valued at Rs. 84,777 in Cannanore and Rs. 1,80,000 or so by 20 Producer-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies of Malabar last year? May I know what steps the Government propose to take to make good this loss? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, there have been large-scale shortages in the various consignments. The matter is now under investigation and we are taking all steps necessary to recoup the loss."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that rice sent from Vijayavada and classed as first sort was found to be useless and unfit for human consumption and so, much loss was sustained by the Movenchari P.C.C. and other societies? "

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The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir. There was some complaint about the quality of the rice also and about the mixture of some foreign matters with it. All these are now under the consideration of the Government."

Sri T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to see the sample of rice that I referred to just now and which I will pass on to him, with your permission, Sir? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Generally, I cannot allow such exhibition. As a special case, I will allow it this time."

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have received already, samples of the rice and also complaints about it. We are already aware of the fact. So, no useful purpose will be served by the hon. Member passing on the sample to me just now. It could very well be handed over in my office."

Sri A. APPU :—" May I know whether there is any proposal to send large quantities of broken rice immediately to Malabar and whether the Government are aware of the fact that this broken rice is always found to be useless and unfit for human consumption? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Representations were made that there was a large demand for broken rice in Malabar, especially in Palghat area. In spite of this fact, we have not been able to send large and appreciable quantities of broken rice to that place. As a matter of fact, broken rice is outside the quota allotted to us. It is only private merchants who have been permitted to import broken rice now."

9 a.m. Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it not a fact that these consignments were loaded under the supervision of a Government officer and the shortage was uniform, being about two maunds in all the bags? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am not prepared to accept it was uniform. There was shortage in almost all the bags and the officials concerned in this transaction also are being dealt with."

Sri M. BAPAIAH CHOUDARY :—" May I know who were the procuring agents for this rice at Vijayavada? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Andhra merchants."

Sri V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR :—" Does this transaction indicate the affection the Andhras are having for the Malayalees? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is not the particular affection that the Andhras have for Malayalees that is seen here. It shows their affection for money."

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SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Are they Congress merchants?"

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Does this not show that the merchant class generally are bad people and have no care for people's interests but are mindful only about their interests?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There is a pronounced expression of affection on their part for money in this particular area."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" The ultimate sufferer is the consumer. Therefore, have the Government any scheme for compensating the consumer against any loss?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is not correct to think that the consumer has to pay for it. We have not included it in the price which the consumer has got to pay. We are trying to recoup the loss from persons who are responsible for this loss."

*Government grant to Madras Institute of Technology.*

* 1028 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state the grant, if any, made by Government to the Madras Institute of Technology in 1951–52 and 1952–53?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" No grant was given to the Institute either in 1951–52 or in 1952–53."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that this is perhaps the only institution which gives post-graduate training in engineering will the Government consider the question of giving any subsidy or grant to the Institute?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" At an earlier stage, a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs had been granted to this institution by this Government. The question of giving a further recurring grant is under consideration."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that this institution has made representations even recently about its inadequate financial position and its even having to close down if aid is not forthcoming and in view also of the fact that this is a very important Institute, will the Government give top priority to this consideration?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" The application is being considered."

*Rural development firkas of Ongole taluk.*

* 1029 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount spent in the Rural Development firkas of Ongole taluk for the year 1952–53; and